

17
LMSD-2832
6, JANUARY 1958

cy # 2
148 sheets



WS 117L

DEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR PROGRAM ACCELERATION

90
CONTRACT AF 04(647)-97

LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION
MISSILE SYSTEMS DIVISION
SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION

The WS-117L program now under development has as its objective the provision of complete reconnaissance systems utilizing satellite borne sensing devices. The material here represents a development plan for accelerating this program, and has been prepared by the Lockheed Missile Systems Division in its role as the WS-117L Weapon System Contractor.

In the course of negotiations on 12 to 19 November 1957 for the WS-117L definitive contract, it was requested by AFBMD personnel that Lockheed consider modification of the program for a potential acceleration. Included was consideration of increasing the tempo of vehicle firings to assure greater probability of program success and to reduce the development time scale of a first Pioneer Visual flight capability by one year to March 1960. Subsequently it was requested that consideration be given to developing the Pioneer Ferret system to a time scale comparable to that of the Visual.

In view of recent emphasis on missile weapon systems, it appeared appropriate to the Contractor to consider the inclusion of two alternate approaches in the development program: (1) The use of an ICBM missile as a booster, and (2) The physical recovery of reconnaissance photographs from the orbiting vehicle. Both approaches have been a part of the Contractor's over-all program concept from its inception but had been shelved due to initial funding limitations. The combination of the two approaches will provide a system attaining very early reconnaissance capability. This is quite similar to a method proposed recently by the RAND Corporation using the Thor as a booster and a panoramic camera, in a spin-stabilized recoverable capsule, on orbit.

The over-all program presented here is essentially the same as that presented to AFBMD on 27 November and 5 December 1957, but incorporates the RAND concept for early Thor-boosted reconnaissance flights.

The Contractor believes strongly that should additional funds be available for enhancement of the U. S. military program, consideration should be given to augmentation of the present WS-117L program in the manner and amount shown in Figure 1. This would allow capitalization of the established broad WS-117L base toward expeditious accomplishment of its military objectives. Expanding the vehicle firing rate from four to ²⁰24 by Feb. 1960 will allow a more efficient utilization of the system, increase ultimate reliability, and bring about earlier reconnaissance capability.

92

RE THE OFFICERS THERE YET A FLS
EGATIVE 200

GR

MD

OR ITEMS B 1 AND 2 YOU ARE REFERRED TO VOLUME 1 OF THE DEVELOPMENT
LANT DAEER PLAN LATED 1 OCT.

ITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION REQUIRED ON THE SOLID JRM
E WILLANSWER IN 2 HOURS

HAT IS ALL FOR HERE STAND BY FOR MAJ ZEPENKA

OR COL HUGHES

HAVE CHECK VOL 1 OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ATLAS AND TITAN SYSTEM OFFICERS
USED DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS FOR THE WORD DEVELOPMENT. FOR
EXAMPLE USING VOL 1 IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ATLAS DEVELOPMENT
WILL BE FINISHED ABOUT A YEAR LATER THAN TITAN.
I HESITATE TO SHOW THIS ON A SCHEDULE, AND THATS WHY I
WOULD APPRECIATE UR VERISION OF THE DATES. I HAVE THE
SAME PROBLEM WITH THE TEST DATE CAN U HELP ME OUT

IA FLS

MD

RAY WILL ALSO HAVE 1 VERISION IN TWO HOURS AVAILABLE IN 2 HOURS

OR THANKS A LOT WE WILL STAND BY FOR MAJ ZEPENKA